

The Mystery of Your Gift

LADIES' SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED BY THE
SISTERS OF MERCY
—A.D.—
1875

2nd February 2024

In the beginning...



Masalou – circa 1880



Boarders & Students on Holy
Grass & Masalou - 1912



Handover Celebration
Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College
to
Mercy Partners

Handover Ritual

Pre-Gathering

A reflection on the Words of Catherine McAuley and Elizabeth McQuoin

College Song

Albert Keats

Acknowledgement / Welcome to Country

Yaama

Mitch Tambo

The Gathering Song

Gather Us In

Here in this place a new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreaming
Brought to you in the light of this day

Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this space the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in all peoples together
Fire of Love in our flesh and our bone.

Marty Haugan

Fanfare for the Common Man

Aaron Copland

*Catherine McAuley had a dream
We have the privilege of knowing it
We have the responsibility to understand it
We have the duty to protect it
We have the honour of living it.*

Maria McGuinness rsm

Introduction

Jennie Ryan rsm

Reflection on Catherine McAuley

The Catherine McAuley Candle carried by Bernadette Mansour rsm

Solo:

We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us
They are saints and they are humans they are angels they are friends
We can see beyond the struggles and the troubles and the challenge
When we know that by our efforts things will be better in the end.

Joyce Rouse

Reader: Georgette Rolland rsm

Catherine McAuley has been described as a ‘woman who allowed the experiences of life to speak to her; and she listened for ministry out of this discernment. She was unrelenting in her pursuit of social justice. Blocked by the clergy of the time, Catherine was unable to continue her work for the poor unless she became a religious. As a consequence of this she founded her own congregation of Sisters of Mercy in 1831.

Many women joined Catherine working to bring about an end to chronic poverty, particularly for women who suffered ill health, lack of education or homelessness and discrimination. Together they challenged the social structures that resulted in isolation.

Driven by the words of the Gospel: 'Whatsoever you do for the least of mine, that you do unto me'. Catherine was quick to respond to any need, all with a deep faith in the Providence of God.

'Toward a Spirituality of Mercy'. Mary Schofield rsm

Reflection on Elizabeth McQuoin

The Elizabeth McQuoin Sanctuary Lamp, gifted to Elizabeth by her community on her departure from Liverpool, carried by Miriam Grech rsm

Solo:

We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us

We are honoured by their passion for our liberty

We will stand a little taller, we will work a little longer

And our shoulders will be there to hold the ones who follow us

Joyce Rouse

Reader: Margaret Farrell rsm

Arriving at the Rocks in Sydney in 1865 with two companions, Elizabeth McQuoin was immediately confronted by their desertion. After receiving the news that the newly appointed Bishop in Bathurst, to where they were heading had decided that he wanted Irish Sisters and being from England, Elizabeth and her two companions were not required. Alone and homeless at the Rocks, this one woman experienced continual rejection from the clergy of her time and the culture of society which didn't see women engage in business activities. But Elizabeth was an astute businesswoman and truly a gift to the people of Sydney in 1865. She was our daring and courageous founder whose foresight and tenacity resulted in the birth and growth of our Sydney Mercy Congregation.

After having the deeds of the St Patrick's property taken over by the Diocese, Elizabeth sought the help of a local businessman, George Whiting, to act on her behalf in purchasing the Masalou property on which she commenced Monte Sant' Angelo. A property that stands today as an oasis in the midst of the high rise which is now North Sydney. Truly an incredible gift from a woman who was stranded at The Rocks but had the ability to gather other strong women around her to begin the Work of Mercy in Sydney.

A Visual Reflection

The Mystery of Your Gift

Josh Groban & Brian Peter Byrne

Reader: Carmel McDonough rsm

Elizabeth walked the path of life with peace in her heart and joy in her face having no thoughts for herself but for others, she spent her life doing good.

Be her imitators then, walk in her footsteps in the path of righteousness and in Elizabeth's own words: 'Be generous to the end'

Mercy Partners

The Mercy Partners Candle is carried by John Leahy, Chief Executive Officer of Mercy Partners.

Solo:

We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us

We are honoured by their passion for our liberty

We will stand a little taller, we will work a little longer

And our shoulders will be there to hold the ones who follow us

Joyce Rouse

Reader: Margaret Farrell rsm

Mercy Partners, the chosen entity to replace the Trusteeship of the Sisters of Mercy of Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College.

Acknowledgement of the Board

Reader: Loreto Conroy rsm

The journey for the Sisters of Mercy regarding Monte Sant' Angelo College from 1875 to today has involved many but it is the present Board that has carried us through to this day.

Members of the College Board are now invited to come forward.

Today we the Sisters of Mercy wish to acknowledge their outstanding service to Mercy through Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College. Their Service on the Board to date is acknowledged with our deep gratitude as we bestow on them the McAuley Award for Service to Mercy.

Igniting Symbolism of the new Governance Structure for Monte

Reader: Margaret: Farrell rsm

I now invite Ricki Jeffery, the Chair of Mercy Partners; Loreto Conroy rsm, our Member and Steward of Mercy Partners for North Sydney Mercies and Brian Bissaker, the Chair of the Monte Sant' Angelo Board to come forward and together light the joint candle symbolising the passing of Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College from the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney to Mercy Partners.

Communal response:

Christ Be Our Light

All sing:

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts

Shine through the darkness

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today

Bernadette Farrell

Commitment by the College Board

Reader: Jennifer Ryan rsm

Members of the Board of Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, you are now invited to profess your Belief and Commitment to the College Community:

Board Members:

*Catherine's dream has been furthered by Elizabeth.
We the Directors of Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College
have the duty to protect that dream. Challenged by the
words of Elizabeth, our Monte founder,
we will 'be generous to the end'.*

Reader: Jennifer Ryan rsm

As we conclude our Celebration today, we do so with hearts full of hope and gratitude for the Mercy Women and Men who today continue to provide Mercy Values based education in Colleges throughout Australia.

Recessional

We Give You Thanks

For the movement deep within us
For the stories that we bring
For the signs of God's compassion
For the journey that we sing
For the word that holds our promise
For the gifts that we can claim
For the wonders that surround us
For the song that sings our name.

We give you thanks, we give you thanks
For the grace to receive in you we believe
We give you thanks we give you thanks
With faith and hope we give you thanks

We give you thanks, we give you thanks
For the grace to receive in you we believe
We give you thanks we give you thanks
With faith and hope we give you thanks

David Haas

Acknowledgements

- College Song: Albert Keats
- Fanfare for the Common Man (1947) Aaron Copland
- Standing on the Shoulders: Copyright 1995 Rouse House Music. ASCAP All rights reserved. Written by Joyce Rouse used with permission.
- The Mystery of your Gift: Songwriters Josh Groban / Brian Peter Byrne Copyright Wb Music Corp., Asamesa Publishing, G Schirmer Inc. APRA AMCOS.
- Christ Be Our Light: Copyright OCP Publications written by Bernadette Farrell
- We Give You Thanks Copyright GIA written David Haas adapted by Folktails
- Yaama (2022), Mitch Tambo APRA AMC
- Word of Life International: CCLI License Number 35716





Scientia Terrace 2024



Arts & Cultural Common
(ACC) - 2020

...and into the future



'Be Generous to the End'

Elizabeth McQuoin